

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board**  
**Friday, January 22, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting via Webex**

**In attendance**

Last Name	First Name	Present
Leiva	Manuel	X
Berry	Paul	X
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X
Gonzales	Melody	X
Barbosa	Cecilia	X
Romero	Carmen	(excused)
Aranda	Edgar	X
Brown	Diana	X
Cabezas	Damien	X
De Silva	Joshua	X
Espinoza	Juan	X
Pacheco	Aida	X
Patterson	Diana	X
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X
Rimola	Sergio	X
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X
Watkins	Walewska	X
Williams	Cecilia	X
Zelaya	Eduardo	X
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X

**1:00 p.m. Welcome, Meeting Overview, and Call to Order – Paul Berry, Chair**

**Approval of December Meeting Minutes - Alex Guzman, Secretary**

Lyons Sanchezconcha motioned to approve the October minutes. Gloria seconded. It passed with recommended changes. Votes are below.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay
Leiva	Manuel	X	
Berry	Paul	X	
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X	
Gonzales	Melody	X	
Barbosa	Cecilia		
Romero	Carmen		
Aranda	Edgar	X	
Brown	Diana		
Cabezas	Damien	X	
De Silva	Joshua	X	
Espinoza	Juan	X	
Pacheco	Aida	X	
Patterson	Diana	X	
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X	
Rimola	Sergio	X	
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X	
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X	
Watkins	Walewska	X	
Williams	Cecilia	X	
Zelaya	Eduardo	X	
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X	
		18	0

### Approval of January Meeting Agenda – Alex Guzman, Secretary

Lyons Sanchezconcha motioned to approve the January agenda. Josh DeSilva seconded. Aida Pacheco recommended putting more time on the agenda for committee report out. Votes are below with recommended changes.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay
Leiva	Manuel	X	
Berry	Paul	X	
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X	
Gonzales	Melody	X	
Barbosa	Cecilia		
Romero	Carmen		
Aranda	Edgar	X	
Brown	Diana		
Cabezas	Damien	X	
De Silva	Joshua	X	
Espinoza	Juan	X	
Pacheco	Aida	X	
Patterson	Diana	X	
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X	
Rimola	Sergio	X	
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X	
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X	
Watkins	Walewska	X	
Williams	Cecilia	X	
Zelaya	Eduardo	X	
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X	
		18	0

### 1:19 p.m. Public Comment - Alex Guzman, Secretary

- Tori Pearson joined the meeting. She is an English as a Second Language teacher for Richmond Public Schools. She shared two major issues affecting her students:
  - Federal requirements for testing that impact school Title III funding. Teachers and advocates are calling on the new administration to halt testing for 2021. They are also asking the Virginia Department of Education match advocacy efforts.
  - Proficiency based ESL-to-teacher ratios. She asked the board to consider signing a letter of support for legislation that would enact such ratios.
- Shawn Soares, the Director for Asian and Pacific Islander Outreach for Governor Northam, joined the meeting but did not offer formal comments.

### 1:24 p.m. Chair's Report - Paul Berry, Chair

The Chair updated with several efforts he is currently engaged in:

- Asked the administration to publicly declare undocumented residents' eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Reached out to Director Castaneda about holding a symposium on farm & agriculture workers with LAJC (Legal Aid Justice Center)
- A new outreach plan for Latinx communities from the Office of Health Equity is in development
- Translation issues on the VDH website have been resolved.
- ELL WIDA ACCESS testing – Title III funding impacts, in consultation with Tori Pierson
- Connecting with the State of Guanajuato: their representatives have reached out to partner with VLAB.
- ONAAB (Office of New Americans Advisory Board) inaugural meeting
- Diversity initiative – 6 Latinos in appointed state government positions; a follow up on the breakdown and where to make improvements is necessary.
- Latinx-White School Segregation is increasing across the Commonwealth.
- Status of 2020 Recommendations— we continue to work with administration staff to determine where our recommendations have landed.
- New business that we should consider today and over the next few months.
  - Redesign of committees
  - Renaming of VA Nat'l Guard State Military Reservation
  - Publish any letters sent to the Governor on the website and FB page
  - Bylaws changes
  - General and special session recommendations

### **1:39 p.m. Board Administration Update - Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration**

Suzanne Holland gave several updates and asked members to take the following actions where appropriate:

- There is now an email dedicated to the Board: [VLAB@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:VLAB@governor.virginia.gov)
- Use the Board Facebook Page as often as possible to promote board activities
- Next meeting: Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Next committee meetings: March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Important websites to seek information helpful to board business:
  - [LIS.virginia.gov](http://LIS.virginia.gov)
  - VDH COVID-19 Vaccine Site: [vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine)
- Timeline of progress for Annual Report submission
  - January-April: Subcommittee meetings—opportunity to discuss topics and issues with guidance from the Governor's administration including Ex-Officio members
  - April-June: Develop Annual Report and Recommendations
  - End of June: Finalized draft
  - July-August: Board Review and Approval
  - October – November: Meeting with the Governor to present report and publish for the public
- Cecilia Barbosa suggested adding response from the Governor's Office to the timeline

- Melody Gonzales—include research and data from organizations across the Commonwealth for the purposes of informing our committee recommendations and larger Board report.

### **1:35 p.m. Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Outreach Update Maribel Castañeda - Director of Appointments and Director of Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Outreach**

Maribel Castañeda gave updates on the following issues:

- The driver privilege card event on December 14<sup>th</sup> promoting DPCs
- Specific engagement with the Latino community as Director of Outreach
- Planning and focus for 2021:
  - National Farmworkers Day
  - Mental Health Awareness Month
  - Latina Equal Payday
- Update on boards and commissions:
  - a total of 758 appointments this year with 54 of those being Hispanic/Latino
  - Advisory Board Challenge for nominations
- Latinos en Virginia: Centro De Empoderamiento has launched a new 24/7 Spanish speaking hotline

Aida Pacheco stated her desire to see the Director of Latino Outreach become a permanent position.

### **2:05 p.m. Elections**

#### **Call for nominations**

**Chair:** Paul Berry

**Vice Chair:** Karina Kline-Gable

**Secretary:** Joshua DeSilva

Candidate statements:

**Secretary:** wants to use this role to get to know each member better and better learn the Board's work.

**Vice Chair:** Honor to work with strong leadership with Paul, and eager to lend support to executive committee and the board. Passionate about transparency and inclusivity.

**Chair:** I am thrilled to accept the nomination. We've seen a number of milestones this past 12 months after a very challenging year. I am excited to continue working with everyone, and excited to discuss our next direction in 2021. It is a truly unique and special experience and I would be honored to continue to have the Board's support.

**Votes are as follows:**

**Secretary – Joshua DeSilva**

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel	X		
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X		
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia	X		
Romero	Carmen			
Aranda	Edgar	X		
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien	X		
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X		
Watkins	Walewska	X		
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo			
Guzmán	C. Alexander	x		

**Vice Chair – Karina Kline-Gable**

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel	X		
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X		
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia	X		
Romero	Carmen			
Aranda	Edgar	X		
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien	X		
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X		
Watkins	Walewska	X		
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo	X		
Guzmán	C. Alexander	x		

## Chair – Paul Berry

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel	X		
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X		
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia	X		
Romero	Carmen			
Aranda	Edgar	X		
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien	X		
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X		
Watkins	Walewska	X		
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo	X		
Guzmán	C. Alexander	x		

## 2:30 p.m. Administration Update: Mona Siddiqui - Deputy Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Deputy Siddiqui introduced herself and updated the board on several topics:

- Team is staffed
- Health equity dashboards
- DEI team participated in a VSP training session at their headquarters:
  - Challenges in recruiting a diverse workforce
  - Parameters around their use-of-force policy
- Renaming of VA National Guard Military Reservation
- Inauguration of the Office for New Americans
- Outreach on vaccine implementation plan
- Cosponsored virtual event with VDH and VCU Massey Center for Facts & Faith Friday calls
- Championing two key bills: SB1993 and HB1296
  - One would mandate a DE&I component to agency strategic plans
- Dr. Underwood spoke in favor of the House Joint Resolution declaring systemic racism a public health crisis.

Paul Berry asked about distinguishing between public health “crisis” and “emergency”— a “crisis” declaration is effective for acknowledging the problem — an “emergency” declaration carries with it special executive powers.



## **2:50 p.m. Legislative Update: Courtney Dozier - Policy Director, Office of the Governor**

Director Dozier updated the board on several topics:

- Week and a half into the legislative session
- Legalization of adult use of cannabis and expungement of convictions
- Auto-Expungements is in the budget as well (has to go through six committees before it's done)
- Constitutional amendments for the restitution of rights
- Abolishing the death penalty
- Codifying the equity leadership workgroup
- Improve access for health insurance
- Bolstering resources for food security

Paul Berry asked about the Right to Work stance from the Office of the Governor. Director Dozier replied that they are keeping track of work in the GA and will see what comes to the Governor's desk.

Josh DeSilva asked about removing limits on in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

Rodrigo Velasquez asked about reproductive rights. Courtney Dozier spoke about expanding access to birth control.

## **3:05 PM Marvin Figueroa, Deputy Secretary, Health and Human Resources**

Deputy Figueroa updated the board on several topics:

Virginia is tracking better than 34 other states in vaccine administration. The administration has identified strategies to accelerate the number of doses administered each day to get to most of the Virginia population by late summer.

Paul Berry asked about supply chain and what issues are preventing faster vaccine administration.

Deputy Figueroa also commented on the outreach and methods that the public is making vaccine appointments. The administration is simplifying things as much as possible—plug in zip code so you can schedule a vaccine (centralizing the process). Increasing call line capacity. Addressing hesitancy is key — there are community trust issues and skepticism about how bad the virus is.

## **3:30 PM Secretary Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth.**

Secretary Thomasson joined the board to give a brief update on the efforts of her office. She specifically addressed the restoration of rights. The Governor has prioritized the restoration of rights. The state constitution puts Virginia at the bottom of restoration of rights policies nationwide, and she is working with the Governor to push to change this during the General Assembly session.

## **4:20 p.m. Committee Reports**

### **Business – Manuel Leiva**

The committee is monitoring bills around workers' rights and minimum wage. He is reaching out to local chambers of commerce to make connections with Latinx business community.

### **Civic Engagement – Karina Kline-Gabel**

Dr. Max Luna and Ms. Shanteny Jackson have received the VLAB annual awards. Karina Kline-Gabel introduced the award winners. Civic Engagement is planning on participating in a youth summit and is discussing Hispanic Awareness month. Dr. Luna and Ms. Jackson provided comments.

#### **Governance – Aida Pacheco**

Action is needed from the Board to follow up on the VLAB election procedures. She also introduced a discussion topic of biannual elections instead of annual elections.

We are looking at an executive transition soon, and the board should develop policies and practices to ensure continuous work. That should include annual assessments of board performance and evaluating how the board has carried out its respective duties. Similarly, the board should endeavor to make evaluations of key constituencies to find improvement areas for board performance and leadership. Additionally, the previous chair should join the executive committee as an Ex Officio member.

#### **Housing – Carmen Romero**

The Housing committee met in October and focused on agenda items related to the Annual Report. The committee is interested in equity statistics around who has accessed the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program. Early data indicates 54% went to Black people, 30% went to White people, and 14% other. There is uncertainty why the Latino demographic is not pulled out specifically.

#### **Education & Workforce – Melody Gonzalez**

The committee is actively pursuing issues on the workforce front and hearing from community stakeholders. COVID-19 issues continue to dominate the conversations. There is also a strong focus on addressing systemic racism and improving the Governor's School selection process.

#### **4:40 PM New Business**

**Motion #1:** Paul Berry made a motion to remove all mentions of "Chairman" and "Vice Chairman" from the bylaws and replace them with "Chair" and "Vice Chair", respectively.

Lyons Sanchezconcha seconds. There is no discussion. The motion passes.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel	X		
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina	X		
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia	X		
Romero	Carmen	X		
Aranda	Edgar	X		
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien			
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana			
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo	X		
Watkins	Walewska	X		
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo			
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X		

**Motion #2:** Paul Berry introduced a motion to amend the bylaws with annual requirements that the board must undertake to complete the Annual Report. They are designed to achieve greater transparency for the public and will ensure that future boards have consistent procedures for creating recommendations.

Carmen Romero seconds

Discussion: Aida recommends designating a consistent liaison for each committee

Paul Berry retracts motion after discussion – the Governance Committee will evaluate and guide discussion at the next meeting to refine the motion’s scope and goals.

**Motion #3:** Paul Berry makes a motion to write letter of inquiry on the status of policy recommendations to the Governor.

Lyons Sanchezconcha seconds. The motion passes.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel			
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina			
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia			
Romero	Carmen			
Aranda	Edgar			
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien			
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo			
Watkins	Walewska			
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo			
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X		

#### **4:40 p.m. Motion to Adopt Elections Procedures**

Elections procedures disseminated by the Commonwealth secretariat were furnished to the board and are designed to align all advisory boards and committees on the same election timetable. Currently boards elect executive officers at different points of the year.

Lyons Sanchezconcha make a motion to approve, Karina Kline-Gabel seconds.

Discussion:

Aida Pacheco comments that a year goes by quickly and executive officers could benefit from a two-year term.

Josh de Silva observes that one-year elections are important, but he can imagine a chair acting differently in their role and being subject to the memberships views every year.

Justin Bell comments that elections do not have to be held annually according to code, but it is in the bylaws.

Cecilia Barbosa commented that she appreciated the ability to continue, and that it does feel like a two-year cycle. If there is a way to remove an executive officer who is not fulfilling their obligations to the role, a two-year term makes sense.

Melody Gonzales states that chairs could be reelected, and there's value in a reelection that create opportunities on the board for others to fill into leadership.

Paul Berry—point of technical clarification, this is not a bylaws amendment, it is a set of procedures for elections. They would be subject to limitations of the bylaws and can be changed if necessary. He then makes a friendly amendment to table the motion until the January meeting so that the Governance Committee can evaluate the procedures. Lyons Sanchezconcha accepts the friendly amendment and Karina Kline Gabel seconds.

#### **5:36 p.m. Closing Remarks and Announcements - Paul Berry, Chair**

Paul Berry makes a motion to adjourn. Karina Kline Gabel seconds.

Last Name	First Name	Ay	Nay	Abstain
Leiva	Manuel			
Berry	Paul	X		
Kline-Gabel	Karina			
Gonzales	Melody	X		
Barbosa	Cecilia			
Romero	Carmen			
Aranda	Edgar			
Brown	Diana	X		
Cabezas	Damien			
De Silva	Joshua	X		
Espinoza	Juan	X		
Pacheco	Aida	X		
Patterson	Diana	X		
Peña Rockhold	Gloria Maria	X		
Rimola	Sergio	X		
Sanchezconcha	Lyons	X		
Velasquez	Rodrigo			
Watkins	Walewska			
Williams	Cecilia	X		
Zelaya	Eduardo			
Guzmán	C. Alexander	X		

**Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM**